

The New Year Spirit at the Fountain Head of Fashion

PARIS, Dec. 17.—Paris has been called "the paradise of woman and the city of flowers." This season the gay capital is certainly upholding her reputation for both charming productions. The popular shops are bright with ivy, holly and seasonal flowers to greet the happy new year, and the winter gardens are transformed into beautiful winter gardens with "buds" of the half and full blown "roses" of the season.

A custom peculiar to the French is that of giving presents not only at Christmas, but on the first day of the new year. Another even more commendable practice is that of actually living and not alone in their hearts acknowledging the faults and differences which during the old year have been making the rift within the life of friendship. Family quarrels are adjusted, and the new year's bells are rung in a real "good will toward men." To come back to the more material side of the celebration, the new year's gifts usually take the form of dainty trifles, preferably in the line of jewelry. All manner of topicals are constructed and act as conversation pieces for the marrows of the season. The airships of the year are put out of favor by the miniature carriages of the popular "type," which have been copied in exact detail and open to disclosure of the custom.

Paris toy merchants are also busy, and from the Madeleine to the Opéra the vendors are stationed, making merry with the crowd and setting their toys spinning for the amusement of passersby.

More exclusive precincts and among the smart set children's costume is the amusement par excellence. The great couturier's skill is called into play to costume many of the small tots, for everything down to the roughest on the slipper has to be absolutely correct according to the period presented.

A Louis XV. beau match the "dainty ditty of powder," his sister, in point of dress. A coat of pale green silk embroidered in an elaborate design of pink roses will be worn over knee breeches of pale pink satin. His padded calves will be incased in white silk stockings and his feet in buckled shoes. A powdered wig tied with a large black bow, lace ruffles, gold eyeglasses worn on a piece of black moire ribbon and an enameled snuffbox complete this fourteenth century Beau Brummel.

Two empire toilets which are being designed for a swaggar costume party

ture dress party" for the juveniles would be a fine idea for some hostesses to initiate. Watteau, Lancret, Reynolds, Hopper, Gainsborough and Nattier all provide an embarrassment of riches for those upon whom the business of selection may fall.



LOUIS XV. COSTUME



EMPIRE COSTUME IN EMBROIDERED SATIN



LOUIS XV. COSTUME



LOUIS XVI. COSTUME



CHILDREN'S HOLIDAY FANCY DRESS COSTUMES.

Romney is the most economical of all painters so far as materials are concerned. A few yards of white muslin and pink ribbons are all that is re-

quired to turn out the most fascinating little eighteenth century ladies one can imagine. Copies of Romney's "Mark Currie" and his "Parson's Daughter" are easy to find, and the frocks of his illustrious sitters can be readily reproduced.

"The Parson's Daughter," with her

powdered hair tied with a wide green ribbon and her brown stuff frock cut low, with a white muslin fichu tucked into the front of it, is sufficiently easy of reproduction to intrust to the tender mercies of an ordinary dressmaker.

Just one more suggestion before I leave the fascinating realm of the costume party gown. At a recent winter fête three sisters, ranging in age from three to ten years, carried off the honors of the evening as the "Three Ladies Waldegrave," the beautiful great-nieces



BROCADED SILK EMPIRE COSTUME

of Horace Walpole, painted by Reynolds. Powdered heads and low cut dresses fashioned exactly after the gowns in the picture are charmingly simple to construct.

While the nursery people at parties don the costumes of long ago, their sisters and mothers dress upon ordinary occasions in quite as picturesque a fashion.

So many things affect sartorial affairs that even war and politics have a direct bearing on the question. Modes a la Russe have had quite a vogue here in Paris, and we were but recently enamored of the "Jappy" coat and in a way still remain true to its influence. Then, personalities influence costumes. There are the Napoleon hat and the Garibaldi waist. Spain is the inspiration of the ever present bolero and toreador hat, and the revolution of France is responsible for the diretoire modes. To continue the list, it was old Gaul that suggested the skirted skirt, while the picture hat and lace blouse are English inventions. And your own country, America, has exploited the blouse waist, led the way in hairdress-

ing and evolved the short walking skirt. Now, is it a wonder that the modern woman has been likened unto a sartorial anaconda by the placid manner in which she takes unto herself the trills, furbelows and fripperies of all ages and climes? She is now taking a shot at the jewelry of her grandmother and great-grandmother. Large brooches, especially cameos, coral and even solid gold, are not despised. Bracelets that were thought too cumbersome and ugly to keep except for association's sake are being drawn out with pride by their lucky possessors.

When a woman of today essays a gown of a certain epoch the jewelry worn with it must be in harmony—belts, clasps and all the accessories correct to a letter; otherwise the toilet is not deemed a success. To meet this demand gems must needs be reset almost every season. The new art jewelry, which was invented by the celebrated Salique, beautiful as many of its examples undoubtedly are, has been so copied in cheap effects that, except in rare instances, new art jewels are not considered chic. The successful imitation of handsome jewelry is responsible for the craze for real antiques.

An expensive item to add to my lady's already long list of "things I must have" is the new hand spun handkerchief. This dainty costs as much as \$10. It is made of the sheerest linen, is light as a cobweb and to the uninitiated is not at all extravagant looking. The edges are worked by hand in a small design, and the owner's name is worked in one corner in embroidery cotton.

Mme. La Mode is a lady of infinite versatility. She has ombred a number of the materials of the year, but one hardly realized that this finish could be applied to leather. As a matter of fact, burbervene leather, which is a shaded variety, is becoming renowned throughout the world of fashion. It represents a very light skin on which all sorts of colors are charmingly blended—rich reds, browns, bronzes and grays in every shade from the lightest to the darkest. It is therefore an easy matter to choose belts, collars and buttons to tone in with almost any cloth. The belts are mounted with hammered bronze, silver and copper buckles.

CATHERINE TALBOT.

Fads For Evening Toilets.

Clusters of pink roses with white frosted leaves are very much used as a supplementary adornment to the evening gowns of today. For the evening headdress a distinct novelty is a cascade of silk or satin to which is attached a cluster of white or shaded aspreys. Combs of tinted horn represent a popular fad in Paris which is attracting a good deal of attention.

Modes In Furs.

The furs a la mode for the moment are undoubtedly ermine, white fox and sable. Ermine paletots, semimitting, are a great deal seen for carriage wear. A pretty example has a deep collar of yellow lace and quaint cords and tassels for fastenings. It is lined with a delicate shade of green, and the pretty toque of ermine en suite has ivy and mistletoe for trimming.

CLOTH TROTTEUR GOWN

THIS natty little trotteur gown is of olive green cloth. The slightly gathered bodice has a set-on strap of the material down the center of the front trimmed with buttons of passementerie and plings of darker



velvet. The flat turnover collar is of linen embroidered in dull olive and turquoise blue silks.

The short skirt is laid in plaits opening out halfway to join the gathered ruffle. A girdle of velvet completes the costume.

A Trousseau Hint.

A beautiful royal blue velvet gown destined for a trousseau of this month is made en princesse. The "overgown" is cut up over a skirt of scintillating sequined net, of which the sleeves also are formed, with curious winglike draperies of mousseline de sole shading from blue to an exquisite wine color. This is a most peculiar gown of art nouveau conception. In the corsage are two huge shaded purple and blue panels. The sequins of which the embroidery is formed throw purple and blue lights as the wearer moves.

The Day of Shaded Veils.

Shaded veils are among the new accessories to be seen nowadays. They are produced in a variety of different colors and are scattered all over with velvet pastilles in black or some other dark shade.

JUST A FEW ANECDOTES

Hard on Husbands.
MRS. MORLEY, at a dinner in New York, praised the devotion of the American husband.

"In America," he said, "the husband almost never chivalrous and attentive and polite after marriage than in Europe. To see an American couple to be laughing and joking, one would believe that they were wedded."

At a point, therefore, of a recent happening in a London court of law would be lost in an American law court: a woman was testifying about her husband in a London life in-

surance suit. A lawyer said to her: "Was your husband good to you during his life?"

"Oh, yes, indeed," she answered. "As good as could be. He was more like a friend than a husband."

The Love of Paris.

Charlemagne Tower, the American Ambassador to Germany, spoke of the American's love of Paris at a dinner that he gave in Philadelphia.

"Our love of Paris is no doubt great," he said, "but I am sure it is not so great as our European cousins would have us believe. We all, of course, have heard the European saying, 'When a good American dies he goes to Paris.' In Berlin,

from a bearded French diplomat, I heard last year a novel variant of this theme.

"It was at a dinner party in Berlin. The French diplomat, regarding me with a smile, said he was sure that I would sympathize with the profound and ingenious emotion of the young American girl whom he was going to speak about. She lived, he said, in a bleak Western city. There were in those days no institutes for the treatment of rabies or threatened rabies, save in France. The young girl's life was ugly and monotonous, and one day she burst into a neighbor's house, almost beside herself with joyous excitement. Her dark eyes flashed. Her cheeks had a delicate rose flush. Panting a little, she cried in a tremulous voice:

"Thank goodness, we are going to Paris at last. Dad has been bitten by a mad dog."

An Error.

Mrs. L. Z. Letter, when she is in Paris, spends a good deal of time in the shops of the exquisite jewelers and dealers in

antiques and objects of art. Mrs. Letter was in Paris early in the winter. She had rooms at the fashionable Hotel Ritz. An American traveler who met her at the Ritz said the other day:

"On a rather dull afternoon Mrs. Letter visited an art shop in the Rue de la Paix. She looked at Redin bronzes, Lalique jewels, drawings of Daumier and other priceless things, and finally, pointing toward a dumpy corner, she said to the polite young salesman: 'How much is that Japanese idol over there worth?'

"The salesman bowed and answered: 'About 60,000 francs, madam. It is the proprietor.'

A Strong Inducement.

Senator Penrose of Pennsylvania celebrated his birthday recently in Philadelphia. A Philadelphiaian, during a congratulatory call, said of him:

"I remember Penrose's entrance into politics when he was a boy of 24. He won the liking of Senator Quay by a quaint little speech that he made to the Repub-

lican leader during the presentation of a petition.

"This petition was laid before Mr. Quay by a delegation whose spokesman was in sufficiently long-winded and tedious. The man talked to the Senator nearly an hour. Every one stood during his speech and it seemed that it would never end.

"When, finally, it did end, Mr. Quay asked wearily if there were any further reasons for the granting of the petition that the delegates had to offer.

"Penrose, tall and straight and boyish, smiled and said in a low voice: 'If you please, Mr. Quay, we'll have that speech repeated all over again to you.'

NEW LIBRARY BOOKS.

The following thirty-five books will be added to the Free Public Library Tuesday morning, January 3, 1905:

MISCELLANEOUS.

American lectures on history of religions.

Davis—Buddhism.

Brinton—Religions of Primitive Peoples.

Cheyne—Jewish Religious Life.

Budge—Religion of Israel to the Exile.

Black—Practice of Self-Culture.

Boynton—Journalism and Literature.

Buell—History of Andrew Jackson (2 vols.).

Fetter—Principles of Economics.

Hakluri—Voyages (vol. 10).

Hearn—Japan; An Interpretation.

LeGallienne—How to Get the Best Out of Books.

Debate.

Schaff—History of the Christian Church (6 vols.).

Spinnors' Club—Prosit; A Book of Toasts.

FICTION.

Carryl—Far from the Madding Girs.

Conroy—Prospector.

Henry—Cabbages and Kings.

Hyne—Atoms of Empire.

Jerome—Tommy & Co.

JUVENILE.

Eastman—Red Hunters and the Animal

People.

Frothingham—Sea Wolves of Seven Shores.

Henty—By Conduct and Courage.

Jamison—Seraph and the Little Violinist.

Johnston—Little Colonel in Arizona.

Molesworth—Ruby Ring.

Road—In Camp at Bear Pond.

Singletton—Goldenrod Fairy Book.

Tomlinson—Three Young Continentals.

Wade—Ten Little Indians.

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